

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Claims 3, 5, and 6 have been indicated to include allowable subject matter and will not be discussed further in this Response. Claim 1 has been amended for reasons of clarification.

Claims 1-2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,240,517 to Harlow, Jr. et al. (hereinafter Harlow '517) or Japanese Patent 62-266248 to Yamada et al. (hereinafter Yamada '248) in view of Japanese Patent 8-276753 to Maeno et al (hereinafter Maeno '753). For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejections are traversed.

The present invention is directed toward a transmission mount structure for a vehicle that has a transverse-mounted engine. The mount structure includes both an elastic main vibration-damping member and an elastic auxiliary vibration-damping member. The main vibration-damping member reduces vibrations in both a vertical direction and in a roll direction, wherein the roll direction is in the direction of rolling motions of the vehicle's power unit caused by engine roll torque. The auxiliary vibration-damping member has a constricted portion at a longitudinal central portion.

The auxiliary vibration-damping member may fail at this constricted portion, but in either a failed or un-failed state is able to provide vibration reduction in a vertical direction.

Harlow '517 discloses a powertrain and independent suspension mounting

arrangement for a front wheel drive vehicle. The arrangement includes a plurality of cradle mounts that support a cradle which in turn supports the powertrain upon a plurality of cushion mounts. The cushion mounts have soft substantially linear spring rates in the same directions as the cradle mounts.

Yamada '248 discloses a plurality of columnar elastic members that are arranged to stand in a spaced relationship. A supporting plate for mounting an engine unit thereon is fixed to the upper ends of the elastic members and bolts adapted to be fixed to a plate on a vehicle body side are mounted on the lower ends of the elastic members. The elastic members have a spring constant in both a vertical and horizontal direction.

Maeno '753 discloses a power unit rear mount structure for a vehicle. The mount structure includes an outer cylinder, an inner cylinder and an elastic material therebetween. Vertical movement of a power unit is received in a shear direction within the elastic material. Figure 3(c) shows a section of the elastic material in a separated or torn condition.

Regarding Claim 1, even if the references were combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, the present invention would not result. Further modification of the combination would be required to arrive at the claimed invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the orientation of the elastic auxiliary vibration-damping member and elements therein. Specifically, the elastic auxiliary vibration-damping member extends in a lengthwise direction substantially perpendicular to the roll direction, and the constricted portion of the elastic auxiliary vibration-damping member is at a longitudinal central portion thereof. The Examiner states that Maeno '753 discloses the type of auxiliary vibration-damping member claimed in claim 1. However, referring to Figure 3(c) of Maeno '753 a constricted

(and separated) portion of an elastic member is shown near or at the center of the width of the elastic member, not length as compared to the claimed member.

Additionally, none of the references teach or suggest a main vibration damping member and an auxiliary damping member wherein the auxiliary damping member is "smaller in diameter or thickness than the main vibration damping member." The references teach, at best, equal sized dampers. Accordingly, even if the references were combined, the claimed invention would not result.

Further, there is no motivation or suggestion in the art of record to combine the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner. The present application provides the only motivation for the combination. Harlow '517 discloses several powertrain mounts 82, 84, and 86 each of which is effective for providing a cushioning spring rate in fore, aft, vertical and lateral directions. (See Harlow '517 Col. 8, Lines 26-30, Col. 9, Lines 1-5, 32-36, and 63-68). Similarly Yamada '248 discloses elastic members have a spring constant in both a vertical and horizontal direction. (See Yamada '248 Abstract) Maeno '753, however, discloses a device with a varying spring constant based on the magnitude of vertical movement, but does not state that the mount structure is effective for absorbing non-vertical motion. Because a more diversified structure is used in both Harlow '517 and Yamada '248, it is unlikely, that one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to add or substitute the more limited device disclosed by Maeno '753 into one of Harlow's or Yamada's systems.

Claims 2 and 4 depend directly on claim 1, which is allowable for reasons brought for the in this amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2 and 4 is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application

is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. SHM-14983.

Respectfully submitted,

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